

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are all of the claims pending in the application. By this Amendment, Applicant hereby amends claim 1 to incorporate the features of claim 7, which is hereby canceled, without prejudice.

I. Formal Matters

Applicant thanks the Examiner for initialing and returning the form PTO/SB/08 submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement of April 19, 2006, indicating that the documents cited therein have been considered.

II. Summary of the Office Action

The Examiner rejected claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

III. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 2001-180234 to Oura (hereinafter "Oura"). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections and respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider these rejections at least in light of the comments which follow.

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, a pneumatic radial tire wherein:

a shear rigidity in a diagonal direction of a square defined by a radial line segment and a circumferential line segment in a plane of the sidewall portion at a part integrally viewing the mutually adjoining cord reinforcing layer and turnup portion of the carcass ply is a range of 300-1000 MPa in case that an elongation of the steel cord is less than 0.5%, and a range of 1000-15000 MPa in case that the elongation is not less than 0.5%.

The Examiner alleges that one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have expected the tire of Oura to demonstrate a shear rigidity in accordance with the claimed invention. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

An exemplary embodiment of the present invention provides a pneumatic radial tire capable of effectively preventing the deterioration of the ride comfort against input of vibrations and improving the run-flat durability. For example, and not for purposes of limitation, see paragraphs 0005 and 0011-0015 of the specification. The above-mentioned features of claim 1 contribute to the prevention of the deterioration of ride comfort against input of vibrations and to the improvement of the run-flat durability.

Oura does not disclose that a shear rigidity in case that the steel cord constituting the cord reinforcing layer has an elongation of less than 0.5% is comparatively smaller (a range of 300-1000 MPa) and a shear rigidity in case that the steel cord constituting the cord reinforcing layer has an elongation of not less than 0.5% is comparatively larger (a range of 1000-15000 MPa), as recited in claim 1. The present invention according to claim 1 largely differs from Oura in construction, effect, and technical concepts, and thus it involves an inventive step over Oura. Accordingly, a person of ordinary skill in the art would not have expected the tire of Oura to demonstrate a shear rigidity in accordance with the claimed invention.

At least for these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is patentable over Oura. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2-6 and 8 are patentable over Oura at least by virtue of their dependency on claim 1. Applicant respectfully submits that the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection is moot with respect to claim 7, which is canceled, without prejudice.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

/Eric S. Barr/

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Eric S. Barr
Registration No. 60,150

Date: June 20, 2008